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TENNESSEE WHEAT PRODUCTION LOWEST SINCE 1991

Tennessee’s 2005 winter wheat production is forecast at 8.16 million bushels, down 41 percent from 2004 and the lowest level since 1991, according to a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. The State’s average yield is forecast at 48 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from 2004. Wheat producers expect to harvest 170,000 acres, 110,000 acres less than a year ago. Tennessee farmers seeded 270,000 acres last fall, 130,000 acres less than a year earlier and the lowest planted acreage since 1978. The remaining 100,000 acres were used as a cover crop or will be harvested for hay or silage.

Winter wheat planting was underway by the first week of October with nearly one-fifth of the crop seeded by October 17. By the end of the month, constant rains had allowed less than a third of the crop to be seeded, with only 20 percent emerged. Rains during the remainder of the fall were frequent as well, which delayed cotton and soybean harvest, and kept producers behind with their wheat seedings. Currently, the winter wheat crop is rated in mostly good condition despite problems with Stripe rust and some reports of frost damage. Growers have been applying fungicides as weather permits. By the week ending May 8, nearly 80 percent of the State’s acreage had headed, with development lagging behind last year and normal.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.59 billion bushels, up 6 percent from 2004. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 45.4 bushels per acre, 1.9 bushels more than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last season.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., May 1, 2005 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	620	185	53.0	48.0	32,860	8,880
Georgia	190	230	45.0	55.0	8,550	12,650
Kentucky	380	300	54.0	57.0	20,520	17,100
Mississippi	135	90	53.0	49.0	7,155	4,410
Missouri	930	600	52.0	52.0	48,360	31,200
North Carolina	460	430	50.0	45.0	23,000	19,350
TENNESSEE	280	170	49.0	48.0	13,720	8,160
Virginia	180	170	55.0	56.0	9,900	9,520
United States	34,462	35,069	43.5	45.4	1,499,434	1,590,862

¹ 2005 forecast, 2004 final.

MAY 1 HAY STOCKS SECOND HIGHEST ON RECORD

Hay stocks on Tennessee farms totaled 1,025,000 tons on May 1, down 13 percent from last year’s record level. Tennessee’s stocks were still the second highest on record, following the largest hay crop on record during 2004. Hay supplies were adequate to surplus going into the winter months, but wet weather contributed to poor quality stocks being unutilized. This factor contributed to a higher level of disappearance than normal, given the fairly mild winter. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2004 - May 1, 2005, totaled 3.17 million tons, 16 percent higher than the 2003 disappearance of 2.65 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

